

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 016978
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CU-04 SCS-06 VO-05 CA-01 L-03
H-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /045 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:JMSEYMOUR
APPROVED BY EUR/EE:CWSCHMIDT
-----095575 210454Z /15

P 210002Z JAN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY WARSAW PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 016978

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:CVIS, CSCE, SHUM, SCUL, PFOR, PL, US

SUBJECT:DENIAL OF VISA TO DR. AND MRS. ANDRZEJ SZECHTER

REF: WARSAW 417

1. DR. AND MRS. SZECHTER WANT TO ADOPT TWO ORPHANS, RAFAL AND VIOLETTA ROZENEC, AGES 3 AND 2, WHO ARE CURRENTLY IN THE STATE ORPHANAGE IN BIALYSTOK. THE SZECHTERS WERE INSTRUCTED TO ATTEND THE FINAL ADOPTION HEARING AT THE COURT IN BIALYSTOK ON NOVEMBER 10, 1977 AND WERE ALSO TO BE INTERVIEWED BY A SOCIAL WORKER FROM THE DISTRICT CENTER FOR MOTHER AND CHILD BEFORE THE HEARING. UPON RECEIVING NOTIFICATION OF THE HEARING, THEY SUBMITTED VISA APPLICATIONS TO THE POLISH CONSULATE IN NEW YORK ON OCTOBER 13. WHEN THE APPLICATIONS WERE DENIED, THEY SUBMITTED AN APPEAL ON OCTOBER 28. THEY SUBSEQUENTLY LEARNED IN A LETTER FROM THEIR ATTORNEY IN POLAND THAT THEIR APPEAL HAS ALSO BEEN DENIED, ALTHOUGH THEY HAVE NOT YET LEARNED THIS THROUGH OFFICIAL CHANNELS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 016978

2. THE BASIS FOR DENIAL, ACCORDING TO THE ATTORNEY, IS A SECTION OF POLISH LAW PROVIDING FOR DENIAL OF A VISA TO A PERSON IF "OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES INDICATE THAT HIS STAY IN POLAND IS AGAINST PUBLIC INTEREST."

3. THE SZECHTERS WERE BORN, RAISED, AND EDUCATED IN POLAND AND LIVED IN WARSAW UNTIL 1968. THEY EMIGRATED LEGALLY.

IN A LETTER TO SENATOR JAVITS THEY CITE THE ANTI-SEMITIC CAMPAIGNS IN POLAND AS THE REASON FOR THEIR DEPARTURE. DR. SZECHTER NOW WORKS AT ST. VINCENT'S HOSPITAL IN NEW YORK.

4. THE DEPARTMENT ON JANUARY 19 PRESENTED TO POLISH CONSUL PILAT HERE A WRITTEN SYNOPSIS OF THE SZECHTERS' VISA DENIAL. WE ORALLY STRESSED THEIR PLIGHT AS OF UTMOST HUMANITARIAN CONCERN. WE URGED PILAT TO REQUEST AUTHORITIES IN WARSAW TO RECONSIDER THEIR DECISION AND APPROVE THESE VISAS SO THE SZECHTERS CAN GO TO POLAND, AS INSTRUCTED, TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE POLISH ADOPTION PROCESS.

5. WE SUSPECT THE REASON FOR DENIAL IS SOMEHOW CONNECTED WITH THE SZECHTERS' DEPARTURE AS A RESULT OF THE ANTI-SEMITISM DURING THE LATE 1960'S. THERE SEEMS TO BE A PATTERN OF THIS SORT IN SOME OF THE VISA DENIALS COMING TO OUR ATTENTION OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS. THE EMBASSY'S EXPERIENCE MAY EXTEND BACK FURTHER, AND WE WOULD APPRECIATE ITS COMMENTS.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE RAISE THE SZECHTER CASE WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND REQUEST URGENT RECONSIDERATION OF THE DENIAL. YOU MAY DRAW ON THE FOREGOING, EXCEPT FOR PARAGRAPH 5. (IF A CONSISTENT PATTERN CAN BE ESTABLISHED, WE SHOULD CONSIDER APPROACHING THE POLES SEPARATELY ON THE QUESTION OF DENIALS OF VISAS TO JEWISH-AMERICANS FROM CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 016978

POLAND AS A GENERAL HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEM.) IN YOUR DEMARCHE YOU MAY WISH TO STRESS:

(A) THE HUMANITARIAN CONSIDERATIONS INVOLVED.

(B) THE CATCH-22 SITUATION THE SZECHTERS CONFRONT -- ESSENTIALLY THEY ARE TRYING TO COMPLY WITH A POLISH COURT ORDER BUT NEED VISAS TO DO IT.

(C) THE NEED FOR URGENT ATTENTION TO THIS MATTER SINCE THE SZECHTERS MAY WELL LOSE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR THE ADOPTION IF THEY CANNOT COMPLY QUICKLY WITH THE COURT ORDER. CHRISTOPHER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VISAS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE016978
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JMSEYMOUR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780032-0168
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780137/aaaabevi.tel
Line Count: 106
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 360c25e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 WARSAW 417
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3734767
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DENIAL OF VISA TO DR. AND MRS. ANDRZEJ SZECHTER
TAGS: CVIS, SHUM, SCUL, PFOR, PL, US, CSCE
To: WARSAW
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/360c25e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014